

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 9-12 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

1. (original) A deflectable elongated medical instrument, comprising:
 - an elongated tubular member having proximal and distal tubular member ends;
 - a wire coil comprising coil turns wound about a longitudinal coil axis in a coil length extending between proximal and distal coil ends, the coil turns separated apart by a coil spacing, the coil proximal end joined to the tubular member distal end to support the coil in axial alignment with the elongated tubular member;
 - a longitudinally extending movable wire mounted within the coil and tubular member, the movable wire mechanically coupled at or near the distal end of the wire coil and extending proximally through the coil and tubular member to the tubular member proximal end;
 - first means for maintaining the coil spacing between a first plurality of coil turns extending in a first line in a first longitudinal portion of the coil when the movable wire is pulled proximally through the coil whereby a first curve is induced in the coils of the first longitudinal portion in a first radial direction from the coil axis; and
 - second means for maintaining the coil spacing between a second plurality of coil turns extending in a second line in a second longitudinal portion of the coil when the movable wire is pulled proximally through the coil, the second longitudinal portion longitudinally displaced at least in part from the first longitudinal portion along the coil length, the second longitudinal portion displaced circumferentially from the first longitudinal portion, whereby a second curve is induced in the coils of the second longitudinal portion in a second radial direction from the coil axis differing from the first radial direction.

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2. (original) The deflectable elongated medical instrument of Claim 1, wherein the first and second radial directions are substantially diametrically opposed.

3. (original) The deflectable elongated medical instrument of Claim 2, wherein:

the first means couples the coil turns together in the first line in the first longitudinal portion of the coil to inhibit separation of the coupled coil turns when the movable wire is pushed distally through the coil; and

the second means couples the coil turns together in the second line in the second longitudinal portion of the coil to inhibit separation of the coupled coil turns when the movable wire is pushed distally through the coil.

4. (original) The deflectable elongated medical instrument of Claim 1, wherein:

the first means couples the coil turns together in the first line in the first longitudinal portion of the coil to inhibit separation of the coupled coil turns when the movable wire is pushed distally through the coil; and

the second means couples the coil turns together in the second line in the second longitudinal portion of the coil to inhibit separation of the coupled coil turns when the movable wire is pushed distally through the coil.

5. (original) The deflectable elongated medical instrument of Claim 1, further comprising:

third means for maintaining the coil spacing between a third plurality of coil turns extending in a third line in a third longitudinal portion of the coil when the movable wire is pulled proximally through the coil, the third longitudinal portion longitudinally displaced at least in part from the first and second longitudinal portions along the coil length, the third longitudinal portion displaced circumferentially from the first and second longitudinal portions, whereby a third

curve is induced in the coils of the third longitudinal portion in a third radial direction from the coil axis differing from the first and second radial directions.

6. (original) The deflectable elongated medical instrument of Claim 5, wherein the first, second, and third radial directions are substantially equally separated radially apart along the circumference of the coil.

7. (original) The deflectable elongated medical instrument of Claim 6, wherein:

the first means couples the coil turns together in the first line in the first longitudinal portion of the coil to inhibit separation of the coupled coil turns when the movable wire is pushed distally through the coil;

the second means couples the coil turns together in the second line in the second longitudinal portion of the coil to inhibit separation of the coupled coil turns when the movable wire is pushed distally through the coil; and

the third means couples the coil turns together in the third line in the third longitudinal portion of the coil to inhibit separation of the coupled coil turns when the movable wire is pushed distally through the coil.

8. (currently amended) The deflectable elongated medical instrument of Claim 1, wherein the elongated tubular member and the wire coil are formed of a single elongated wire coil having proximal and distal segments, and the wire coil turns in the proximal segment are tightly wound and/or welded together at discrete spaced apart longitudinally and radially oriented locations to create torque control while maintaining flexibility.

9.-12. (canceled)

13. (original) A deflectable elongated medical instrument, comprising: an elongated tubular member having proximal and distal ends and a member lumen;

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a wire coil having proximal and distal coil ends and a coil lumen, the coil proximal end joined to the distal end of the tubular member;

a longitudinally movable wire mounted within the aligned member and coil lumens and mechanically coupled at or near the distal end of the coil, the movable wire having a flattened surface; and

a backbone located within a portion of the coil lumen, extending along one side of the coil and mechanically coupled to the a plurality of turns of the wire coil to maintain the spacing between coil turns and induce a bend in the portion of the coil when the movable wire is pulled or pushed, the backbone having a width greater than its arc height and presenting a flattened or arcuate surface facing the flattened surface of the movable wire extending alongside the backbone.

14. (original) A elongated medical instrument of Claim 13, wherein the backbone is mechanically coupled to individual turns of the coil intermediate the proximal and distal ends of the coil.

15. (original) The deflectable elongated medical instrument of Claim 13, wherein the elongated tubular member and wire coil are formed of a single elongated wire coil having proximal and distal segments, and the wire coil turns in the proximal segment are tightly wound and/or welded together at spaced apart longitudinal and radial locations to create torque control while maintaining flexibility.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The deflectable elongated medical instrument of Claim 13, wherein the elongated tubular member and wire coil are formed of a single elongated wire coil having proximal and distal segments, and the wire coil turns in the proximal segment are tightly wound and/or welded together at discrete spaced apart longitudinal and radial locations, to create torque control while maintaining flexibility.

18. (original) A deflectable elongated medical instrument, comprising:
an elongated tubular member having proximal and distal tubular member ends;

a wire coil comprising coil turns wound about a longitudinal coil axis in a coil length extending between proximal and distal coil ends, the coil turns separated apart by a coil spacing, the coil proximal end joined to the tubular member distal end to support the coil in axial alignment with the elongated tubular member;

first means for maintaining the coil spacing between a first plurality of coil turns extending in a first line in a first longitudinal portion of the coil;

a first longitudinally extending movable wire mounted within the coil and tubular member, the first movable wire mechanically coupled at or near the distal end of the first longitudinal portion of the wire coil and extending proximally through the coil and tubular member to the tubular member proximal end to induce a first curve in the first longitudinal portion in a first radial direction from the coil axis when the movable wire is pulled proximally through the coil;

second means for maintaining the coil spacing between a second plurality of coil turns extending in a second line in a second longitudinal portion of the coil; and

a second longitudinally extending movable wire mounted within the coil and tubular member, the second movable wire mechanically coupled at or near the distal end of the second longitudinal portion of the wire coil and extending proximally through the coil and tubular member to the tubular member proximal end to induce a second curve in the second longitudinal portion in a second radial direction from the coil axis when the movable wire is pulled proximally through the coil.

19. (original) The deflectable elongated medical instrument of Claim 18, wherein the first and second radial directions are substantially diametrically opposed.

20. (original) The deflectable elongated medical instrument of Claim 19, wherein:

the first means couples the coil turns together in the first line in the first longitudinal portion of the coil to inhibit separation of the coupled coil turns when the first movable wire is pushed distally through the coil; and

the second means couples the coil turns together in the second line in the second longitudinal portion of the coil to inhibit separation of the coupled coil turns when the second movable wire is pushed distally through the coil.

21. (original) The deflectable elongated medical instrument of Claim 18, wherein:

the first means couples the coil turns together in the first line in the first longitudinal portion of the coil to inhibit separation of the coupled coil turns when the first movable wire is pushed distally through the coil; and

the second means couples the coil turns together in the second line in the second longitudinal portion of the coil to inhibit separation of the coupled coil turns when the second movable wire is pushed distally through the coil.

22. (currently amended) The deflectable elongated medical instrument of Claim 18, wherein the elongated tubular member and the wire coil are formed of a single elongated wire coil having proximal and distal segments, and the wire coil turns in the proximal segment are tightly wound and/or welded together at discrete spaced apart longitudinal and radial locations, ~~to create torque control while maintaining flexibility.~~

23. (original) A deflectable elongated medical instrument comprising:
an outer deflectable wire comprising:

a proximal elongated tubular member having proximal and distal ends and a tubular member lumen;

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a distal wire coil having proximal and distal coil ends and a coil lumen, the coil proximal end joined to the distal end of the tubular member and the aligned tubular member and coil lumens forming an outer deflectable wire lumen;

a backbone extending along one side of the wire coil and mechanically coupled to a plurality of turns of the wire coil to maintain the spacing between coil turns; and

a longitudinally inner movable wire mounted within the outer deflectable wire lumen and mechanically coupled to the distal wire coil substantially distal to the backbone to induce a bend in the portion of the distal wire coil when the inner movable wire is pulled or pushed;

an inner deflectable wire comprising:

a proximal elongated tubular member having proximal and distal ends and a tubular member lumen;

a distal wire coil having proximal and distal coil ends and a coil lumen, the coil proximal end joined to the distal end of the tubular member and the aligned tubular member and coil lumens forming an outer deflectable wire lumen;

a backbone extending along one side of the wire coil and mechanically coupled to a plurality of turns of the wire coil to maintain the spacing between coil turns; and

a longitudinally inner movable wire mounted within the outer deflectable wire lumen and mechanically coupled to the distal wire coil substantially distal to the backbone to induce a bend in the portion of the distal wire coil when the inner movable wire is pulled or pushed; and wherein:

the inner deflectable wire is extendable through the outer deflectable wire lumen enabling the independent formation of bends in the portions of the distal wire coils of the inner and

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outer deflectable wires upon pulling or pushing of the inner and outer movable wires.

24. (original) The deflectable elongated medical instrument of Claim 23, wherein the inner deflectable wire is rotatable within the outer deflectable wire lumen enabling the independent formation of bends that are radially displaced from one another in the portions of the distal wire coils of the inner and outer deflectable wires upon pulling or pushing of the inner and outer movable wires.

25. (original) The deflectable elongated medical instrument of Claim 13, wherein the proximal elongated tubular members and the wire coils of the inner and outer deflectable wires are each formed of a single elongated wire coil having proximal and distal segments, and the wire coil turns in the proximal segment are tightly wound and/or welded together at spaced apart longitudinal and radial locations to create torque control while maintaining flexibility.

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